

2.—Are arrangements to be made for carrying goods, or at least market produce? Not even a basket of flood-water can be "carried up now or then" by the passengers. An early market now could not be a good thing, since it is continuous, and that by a necessity if the train is to continue in favour. The idea is growing that these evening trains for a few hours a day, is essential or nearly so the community require. As one lady passenger put it the other evening, "while ascending in the car—" They seem to think it a great favour to allow people to travel by it at all. That is really the feeling abroad and "the thing," as it is generally called, is really not much use and frightfully expensive! Once this idea gets broadcast and the glamour of novelty worn off, we are afraid that unless the authorities bestir themselves we shall see the grass growing in the road-way and the rails used as uprights for matchsticks before twelve months are over.

3.—A late train, say a quarter to eleven, would be a great convenience for diners at the Peck. Many a one refuses invitations to dine at the Peck because of the absence of train "communication." I am sure the authorities will find a method for the benefit of passengers. I allow them to be a little touchy about their exemption and the disturbance of their dinner at 11.15. But the answer will come in the end.

will be—“Oh! yes! that will come in time.” There is a certain road “paved with good intentions,” we are sadly afraid that the tramway authorities will fast go towards destruction should they not please the public a little more.

- The requisites are:—
1.—Intermediate stations.
2.—Early morning, market trains.
3.—The carriage of articles of food.
4.—Means of carrying passengers' chairs and chair coolies and at cheap rates.
5.—A late train at 10.45 p.m.
6.—Carriage of goods, such as coals, building material, &c. &c.

The latter will materially reduce the high price now paid for passenger fares, and that is almost a necessity.

The suggestion made by Dr. Cantlie at the Sanitary Board meeting that a truck specially adapted for the carriage of night soil, and which was received with laughter by the cringing, wheeled savants of Sanitation, is a public duty of more importance to the community than the providing a novel luxury for the few people who can afford it, and who are philanthropic enough to save their chair coolie the burden of carrying them from St. John's Place to Victoria Gap. Instead of the night soil being thrown on the hillside, and contaminating the water supply of the streams, more especially Glenelg, the buckets could be collected under superintendence and despatched in the night soil truck with rapidity, precision and all absence of danger or nuisance to the community.

We wish the tramway all success and the undertaking has no more hearty supporters than ourselves, but we want it wholly useful and not merely a luxurious playing for the eupulent.

THE UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the fifteenth ordinary meeting to be held at the Society's Offices at half-past three o'clock, on Wednesday, the 10th October, 1888:—

The Directors have now to submit to the shareholders a report of the business of the year 1887, and for the six months ending the 30th June 1888.

1887.—The net Premium collected for the year, after deducting Returns and Reinsurances, amounts to \$1,122,611.34.

After providing for bonus of 15 per cent. on contributions paid in April last, the balance at credit of Working Account, is a balance of 155,351.14 as per annexed statement.

From this sum the Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of \$5 per share equivalent to 20 per cent. on the paid up Capital of \$25 per share, and an addition to reserve fund of \$21,500 raising the reserve to \$66,500. The balance remaining of \$83,851.14 they propose to carry forward to meet liabilities and claims still outstanding, and thus close the account for the year 1887.

1888.—The position of the Society for the present year, as far as it can be ascertained, is as follows:—

Balance of Working Account to the 30th June 1888 per annexed statement \$336,891.82

Add estimate of premium to 30th September 300,000.00

Estimate of losses to pay 173,000.00

\$513,891.82

DIRECTORS.

In accordance with clause 129 of the Articles of Association, Messrs. P. RYRIE and J. BELL-IRVING retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. J. H. COX and R. LYALL retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

P. RYRIE, Chairman.

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1887.

On 30th June, 1888.

To Working Account balance on 30th June, 1887 \$371,597.16

Net Premium 1st July to 31st December, 1887 528,377.78

Interest 48,083.16

\$948,058.10

Cr. By Agency commissions 30,124.73

Agency charges 9,857.19

Head Office charges 23,988.82

Shanghai charges 9,761.94

London charges 30,449.83

Yokohama charges 4,016.26

Melbourne charges 6,844.48

Remuneration for half-year ending 31st December 1887, to Directors, Committees and Auditors 9,673.29

Losses and claims paid 525,093.20

Bonus on contributions account 1887 (declared 16th April, 1888) 142,857.22

15 per cent. 155,351.14

Balance 948,058.10

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1888.

On 30th June, 1888.

To Net Premium from 1st January to 30th June, 1888 657,229.46

Interest 15,113.37

\$672,342.83

Cr. By Agency commissions 12,948.90

Agency charges 6,846.14

Head Office charges 23,660.56

Shanghai charges 9,866.39

London charges 22,325.41

Yokohama charges 4,114.14

Melbourne charges 5,937.22

Remuneration for half-year ending 30th June 1888, to Directors, Committees and Auditors 9,712.38

Losses and claims paid 189,959.82

Balance 672,342.83

BALANCE SHEET ON 30TH JUNE, 1888.

Dr. To Capital 10,000 shares of \$250 each—\$2,500,000 upon which \$25 per share called and paid up—\$625,000.00

To Reserve Fund 675,000.00

Unclaimed Bonus 3,444.90

Exchange Fluctuation account 46,554.87

To Investment Fluctuation account being the increase in market value of securities 51,476.48

To Working account 1887, balance 155,351.14

Working account 1888, balance 380,591.82

Sundry creditors 85,121.69

\$1,653,840.90

Cr. By Cash on Current account with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation 46,052.96

Cash on deposit, viz: Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China 71,000.00

Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China 47,250.00

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation 135,000.00

New Oriental Bank Corporation Ltd 21,000.00

Amount on Mortgage in Hongkong 276,250.00

Cash invested in Chinese Imperial Loan, viz: B 1884 36,500.00

C 1884 152,500.00

Cash at debit of Branches and Agencies 1,005,278.77

Including 2,892,000 invested in London in Consols, East India Government guaranteed Railways, and other Securities, £33,000 on Deposit with Banks in London, and £4,000 on Deposit with Banks in Melbourne.

Bills Receivable 19,598.25

Bills Remitted to London Agency, 30th June account 4,688.02

Sundry Debtors 62,972.88

\$1,653,840.90

N. J. EDE, Secretary.

We have compared the above statements with the vouchers, and securities at the Head Office, and with the returns received from the various agencies of the Society, and have found the same to be correct.

JAMES H. COX, R. LYALL, Auditors.

Hongkong, 4th October, 1888.

OUR MACAO LETTER.

MACAO, October 6th, 1888.

The great topic of the day is ex-Governor da Costa's early departure for Lisbon. In a few days our fallen autocrat will hand over the gubernatorial powers to the Government Council, which, in the absence of the Bishop, will be presided over by our excellent Chief Justice, Senhor J. J. da Silva. The other members are the Colonial Treasurer, the oldest military officer in the Colony, who is, I believe, Senhor Calval, the Acting Secretary, Senhor Calval, and the Surgeon, Dr. Gomes da Silva, who has lately been censured by the Lisbon Colonial Office for having taken part in the excursion to Siam with His Excellency da Costa.

Our departing Governor has already taken passage for Marseilles by the Messageries steamer *Alcazar*, which is to leave your port on the 17th inst. He has not tarried long in the Holy City after his recall. It is to be hoped the colony of Guiné and its African inhabitants will profit by the unsurpassable administrative talent displayed by Governor da Costa while in Macao. The motives of his recall are said to have been his useless and expensive trips to Siam and Timor, his impolitic quarrels with the members and the dissolution of the *Leal Senado*, his introduction into the city of the cholera-infected passengers of the transport *India*, his shady behaviour in ordering Major Vaqueiros into the *Capitães*, where that unfortunate officer lost his life, and the forcible detention in the Monte Fort of this city of the Timorenses who are said to have been implicated in the murder of the late Governor Maia, but who have neither been tried nor convicted of that heinous crime.

The Mohammedans who reside in this city and are owners of the ground on which their Mosque is situated, are justly indignant against Senhor da Costa for having allowed the bodies of several persons who died from cholera to be buried within the precincts of that locality. So far, they have had no redress for their grievance.

Indignation is also manifested among the official class of our residents at the unceremonious manner in which Senhor Leite's position is to be sent home on sick leave, who has been the Colonial Secretary, who has enjoyed the best of health, and who was lately permitted to proceed home on sick leave, while Senhor Leite, who is in a really precarious state, has been denied that privilege!

The Government transport *India* leaves this port for Timor and Lisbon to-morrow. The troops have all embarked, and the Colonial Surgeon is on board hunting for any stray microbes.

A house belonging to St. Joseph's College fell down yesterday in Bazarinho Street, and a Chinaman was killed thereby. While our Chief Justice, Senhor J. J. da Silva, was taking his bath yesterday in an out-house adjoining his residence, the floor gave way and the bath was precipitated to a lower floor and sustained several contusions. We are all glad he is now doing well.

Ex-Governor da Costa has already telegraphed to the Courts of Siam and Japan that he will shortly leave for home. *Regretat in pace*, which translated means—"Rest, wild cat, in peace."

Our local geese, ganders and false prophets are all up and doing in preparation for the grand Church festival to-morrow. I congratulate the Steamboat Company on their policy of not sending any more extra steamers to Macao on the occasion of religious festivities. We have enough religious nonsense to put up with here, and would spare your Lusitanian community the trouble of coming down to thicken the ranks of the Church-ridden fops, hypocrites and non-entities, who are the plague of the city.

"GAGGING" ON THE STAGE.

Mr. John F. Sheridan, the leading comedian of the American Musical Comedy and Opera Company, writes to our Shanghai morning contemporary as follows:—

Perhaps a few lines on the above subject will not be deemed out of order. I have been accused and mildly condemned for talking liberties with my stage work by "gagging," and as I am at all times willing to be taught the proper caper, I must in mild extenuation for my fault, if fault it be, have a little voice in the matter, and I ask a small space in your columns to vindicate myself.

As actor of many years' experience—I won't say how many as it makes a fellow so old you know—I have learned that it is well for a comedian to feel the pulse of his audience. When I step before my auditors, I very quickly judge what their palates require. It is, of course, an utter impossibility to please and satisfy every taste, and when I err in my judgment, I can certainly lay the flattering unction to my soul that I am not the only one. I have found that going on legitimately in the author's groove as laid out for me, audiences at times are cold and pulseless in appreciation, but when I have gone out of the author's groove and "gagged," so to speak, and on the spur of the moment taken up some situation or local allusion, that the whole spirit of my audience has changed, and it is a good saying that when you get a person in good humour, it is very easy to keep him so. I am particularly fond of gagging for daring to trespass on the humour of W. S. Gilbert. I have noticed that many of Mr. Gilbert's puns and satirical points of humour are so purely local to London, that

they fall very flat when given elsewhere. Mr. Gilbert is a Londoner, he caters and writes for the London market, and never considers Shanghai, Timbuctoo, or any other locality. I deem Mr. Gilbert's mastery work in comic opera nothing more or less than burlesque. A comedian has a certain license in burlesque, and I think an equal right to adapt his work in comic opera to the situation. For instance, *Koko* when asked in the "Mikado" to produce *Nanki-Poo*, says, "He's gone abroad." "Where?" says the Mikado. Gilbert replies—"catering for London—*Knightsbridge*." I, making it local, say *Nagasaki*, this is "gagging." I never forget I am playing to a large portion who do not know London as well as the hypercritical critic, and as I must respectfully aver, I am catering for my auditors, and not any individual who may be so well up in the puns and the Latin of Mr. Gilbert and who when he hears the Latin and puns as set forth by the author—it is ten to one that the said individual, who would not exert himself to acknowledge the joke and by so doing add his little show of appreciation to what might inspire a general big effect.

I do not deny that I may at times in my eagerness to entertain, overstep the bounds. But I am only a poor player, who frets his weary hour upon the stage, and when I err in going a bit too far, you must attribute it to the tongue not the heart. When I am before my audience, I have but one desire—to please, and especially so here in Shanghai where I have been so kindly and generally received at all times. Apologising for asking a small space for my excuse for gagging, I am the public's obedient servant—to entertain.

A GOOD STIMULANT FOR WOMEN.

Of hot melle as a stimulant the San Francisco *Medical Record* says:—"Milk heated to much above 100° Fahrenheit loses for a time a degree of its sweetness and density. No one who, fatigued by over-exercising of body or mind, has ever experienced the reviving influence of a tumbler of this beverage, heated as hot as it can be sipped, will willingly forego a resort to it because of its being rendered somewhat less acceptable to the palate. The promptness with which its cordial influence is felt is indeed surprising. Some portion of it seems to be digested and appropriated almost immediately, and new many who now fancy they need alcoholic stimulants when exhausted by fatigue will find in this simple draught an equivalent that will be abundantly satisfying and far more enduring in its effects."

There is many an ignorant "overworked" woman who fancies she could not keep up without her beer; she mistakes its momentary exhilaration for strength, and applies the whip instead of nourishment to her poor, exhausted frame. Any honest, intelligent physician will tell her that there is more real strength and nourishment in a slice of bread than in a quart of beer; but if she loves stimulants it would be a useless piece of information. It is claimed that some of the lady clerks in our own city, and these, too, who are employed in respectable business houses, are in the habit of ordering ale or beer at the restaurants. They probably claim that they are "tired," and no one who sees their faithful devotion to customers all day will doubt their assertions. But they should not mistake beer for a blessing, or stimulus for strength. A careful examination of statistics will prove that men and women who do not drink can endure more hardships and do more work and live longer than their less temperate neighbors. But

A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.

And woman is wonderfully like him in this respect.

Furthermore, if a woman wants anything, from a California trip to a glass of toddy, you may rest assured that her health will demand it, and it sometimes demands it so loud and so long that her friends are apt to yield to time to save their own lives. A tipsy woman gets a pain in her arm, or an ache on a short notice, and if she has a cold or a headache the whisky has to suffer and the drugstore in her neighborhood do a thriving business. If her ale disorders her stomach she depends on a dose of whisky to correct its effects, and so her morning beer and evening Bourbon do a co-operative business."

THE AMATEURS OF ST. PATRICKS HALL, AND MEMBERS OF THE 58th, LILY MINSTRELS, will give A GRAND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT for the Benefit of the Widow and Family of the Late CORNELIUS PEREIRA, Assistant Warder, V. G., who lost his life in the execution of his duty with the Chain-Gang.

Under the distinguished Patronage of H.E. SIR WILLIAM DES VEAUX, K.C.M.G., Governor of Hongkong.

H.E. LIEUT.-GENERAL CAMERON, C.B., Commanding Troops Hongkong, China, and Straits Settlements.

Major-General GORDON, Superintendent of Victoria Gaol/Hongkong.

Colonel CRASTER, C.R.A.

Colonel D. G. ANDERSON, 88th Regiment.

Doctor AYRES, Colonial Surgeon, and Officers of the Garrison.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:—Dress Circle \$2.00

Stalls 1.00

Pit 0.50

Men Uniform half price to Stalls and Pit.

Tickets can be obtained at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED, where a plan of the house can be seen.

Accompanist—Mr. W. GOLDBERNE.

Stage Manager—Mr. P. P. WARNER, R.A.

Secretary—Mr. F. J. SMALL, R.N.D.Y.

To whom all communications may be addressed.

COMMITTEE: Mr. J. QUINN, Victoria Gaol.

Mr. W. H. FOULKES, Victoria Gaol.

Mr. H. RAPIST, Victoria Gaol.

Mr. J. P. MCCARTHY.

Mr. C. A. PHILLIPS.

By kind permission of Col. ANDERSON and Officers, the Band of the Regiment, under the direction of Mr. MORAN, will play during the interval.

Doors open at 8.10, to commence at 9 P.M.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Hongkong, 6th October, 1888.

THEATRE ROYAL, CITY HALL, HONGKONG.

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